India-China Boundary Question concluded in April 2005. The Special Representatives shall complete at an early date the task of arriving at an agreed framework settlement on the basis of this Agreement". The dates for the next round of talks between the Special Representatives will be decided through diplomatic channels.

PM's visit has led to a broadening of our functional cooperation in bilateral areas and to the deepening of mutual understanding between our two countries.

Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement

252. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is reported to have made a statement to the effect that India would be isolated if it did not sign the civilian under agreement with U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has not so far moved forward on the safeguard agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Minister of External Affairs, in his extempore remarks while addressing the Kolkata Chamber of Commerce on February 3, 2008 conveyed that India has not been able to enter into trade in nuclear materials and technology with the 45 member Nuclear Suppliers Group as their guidelines prevent members from trade and civil nuclear co-operation with India, has not signed the Non Proliferation Treaty and has a strategic programme, India has thus been virtually isolated from cooperation with such suppliers for decades and has been denied access to advanced and dual use technology for decades.

(c) Negotiations on an India-specific safeguards agreement are ongoing with the IAEA.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of uranium

253. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that African coutnries like Niger, Namibia, Uganda, Angola produce sizeable quantities of uranium;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take up the matter with those countries for the supply of uranium instead of entering into an agreement with USA for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof and;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the draft International Atomic Energy Agency Red Book Report 2007, Niger

and Namibia respectively produced 1,01,136 tonnes and 88,047 tonnes of uranium till 2006. Details of uranium resources in respect of Uganda and Angola are not available in open literature.

(c) to (e) While the Government is examining all possibilities of accessing Uranium, a change in terms of opening of international civil nuclear coopeartion with India would be necessary to realise such a possibility.

New citizenship test in Australia

254. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has introduced a new citizenship test for the citizens;

(b) whether Government has made any representation to the Australian Government in this regard;

(c) whether the test is adversely affecting original Indian citizen; and

(d) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes. The Government of Australia introuced new citizenship test w.e.f. October 1, 2007.

(b) No.

(c) The test does not adversely affect persons of Indian origin applying for Australian citizenship.

(d) The Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Testing) Act, 2007 amended the Australian Citizenship Act to require applicant for Australian citizenship to have successfully completed a test before applying for Australian citizenship. The citizenship test is to ensure that the applicant possesses a basic knowledge of the English language, has an adequate knowledge of Australia and of the responsibilities and privileges of Australian citizenship. All the questions in the test are drawn from information in a booklet entitled "Becoming an Austrailian Citizen." The booklet is available to applicants free of charge. For applicant with a low level of English literacy, officials at the testing centre provide assistance by reading the questions and possible answers. To be eligible for this assistance the applicant must have completed at least 400 hours of English language tution under the "Audit Migrants English Programme".

Seats for Afghani students

255. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for more seats in technical colleges for Afghani stude[illegible]

(b) if so, whether the demand is likely to be met in near future; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. There is a demand for more seats in technical colleges for Afghani students.

(b) and (c) Our endeavour is to meet the demand in the near future subject to availability of seats. We had provided admissions to 27 eligible scholars in technical courses during the academic year 2006-07 and 20 during the academic year 2007-08.